



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE PROPERTIES REVIEW BOARD  
165 Capitol Avenue, Room #123  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106



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PASQUALE A. PEPE  
JOHN P. VALENGAVICH

BRIAN A. DILLON, DIRECTOR  
TEL: (860) 713-6400  
FAX: (860) 713-7391

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**TO:** Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Ed Greenberg, and I am the Chairman of the State Properties Review Board. I am here to express some concerns about Senate Bill 6354.

The Legislature established the State Properties Review Board as a watchdog agency. The Board currently has the authority to approve or disapprove various State Contracts, including the procurement of consultant architects, engineers and other construction related professionals by the Department of Construction Services.

While the Attorney General approves the legal sufficiency of contracts, *no other independent Board or agency reviews the merits of DCS contracts with respect to cost, the equitable distribution of contracts among consultants, and compliance with State laws for procurement.*

Since 1975 the Board has documented over \$80-Million dollars of savings to the State of Connecticut. More specifically, over the past three years the Board has documented savings of over \$1.3M, which included the review of over 320 consultant contracts developed by the Department of Construction services in addition to various other real estate matters.

Senate Bill 6354 intends to merge most of DCS into the Department of Administrative Services and split the statutory authority for hiring professional consultants between the Department of Administrative Services, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the State Department of Education. While, I am not here to provide an opinion as to the perceived benefits of this approach, I would ask that -- regardless of what decisions are made -- the State Properties Review Board continue to have the authority to review consultant contracts in order to ensure transparency and independent oversight of the State's professional consultant contracts.

I am concerned because Senate Bill 6354 keeps consultant contracts procured by the Department of Administrative Services under the consistent review of the Board while providing the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the State Department of Education the ability to circumvent this process.

Therefore, Section 29(i) of this Bill would potentially minimize the influence of independent third party reviews for State generated consultant contracts.

This is contrary to the Legislature and the State Properties Review Board's shared objectives to reduce costs and ensure transparency in government.

In conclusion, it is the recommendation of the State Properties Review Board that, should this legislation proceed, Section 29(i) of this bill should be revised to ensure that all consultant contracts for public works-related projects procured by the Department of Administrative Services, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the State Department of Education are subject to the Board's review and approval. This will help to ensure more equitable procurement processes, consistency within various agencies and transparency in state government contracting.

Thank-you for your time and consideration on this matter.